2: Jochelson E-5 (1884-1902) 1933 RR Yakut (RV2)
SIBIRIAK (RR4)

ing a poor Yakut for money, but this incident did not come to the knowledge of the Russian administration.

Being vegetarians, the skoptzy kept horses for driving and farming and horned cattle for their milk and milk products. They kept birds for their eggs.

In 1904 the *skoptzy*, according to a manifesto from the Czar, were allowed to return to European Russia and, beginning in 1905, they started to leave Yakut Province, by villages. On their westward journey they told everywhere of their success in carrying on agriculture in Yakutsk Province. Many Russian peasants set out for Yakut Province to occupy the land of the *skoptzy*, but without their resources were unable to carry on their agricultural pursuits on the same scale

Yakut Agriculturists. The Yakut learned the technique of soil cultivation from the Russians from whom they also received seed. Their first sowing was in 1853 in the valley of the Maya River, thus it is only about seventy-five years since the native population became agriculturists. From that time, agriculture developed rapidly. In the first half of the eighteenth century about 400 to 450 acres were sown in Yakut Province; in 1891 over 16,000 acres, and in 1917, about 34,000 acres. It is interesting to note that three-fifths of the tilled land was cultivated by the Yakut.

The proportion of cereal plants sown was and remains almost constant. In the period between 1917 and 1925 barley occupied first place (from 46 to 59 per cent of the cultivated land), then followed spring and winter rye (from 30 to 39 per cent), spring wheat (from 6 to 13.6 per cent) and oats (from 1 to 5 per cent).

In addition to cereal plants, potatoes should be mentioned. In 1900–1910 these were grown on 700 acres. No other vegetables are cultivated by the Yakut. But Russians living in the suburbs of the cities grow many kinds of sweet herbs, onions, melons, watermelons, etc. The harsh winter of Yakutsk Province has its compensation in the warm summer, the abundant sunshine of its long clear days and the continentality of climate in general. Because of these climatic conditions, the possible period of plant growth is much shorter in Yakutsk Province (central and southern parts) than in countries lying much farther to the south. Thus the average maturation period for barley is seventy-one days, wheat, seventy-seven days, and spring rye, eighty days.

Agricultural methods are still primitive. Some Yakut continue to use the iron spade for tilling. Few possess iron plows; harrows with iron instead of wooden teeth are a great luxury.

9: Stadling--91-92 E-3 (1898) 1901 Yakut
116, 177, 243

"The culture of cereals has only of late years been introduced among the Yakuts by the Russians, especially the 'Skoptsi' and other sectarians. Instead of flour they formerly used the juicy part of the bark of the pine and different kinds of roots. Half a century ago no one believed it would be possible to cultivate cereals in Yakutsk. In the first experiments the crops were frost-bitten, but by-and-by the corn became acclimatised, and now in favor- [92] able years good crops are secured. In the short space of two months from sowing, thanks to the usually hot summers, the grain ripens and is harvested. In the neighbourhood of the city of Yakutsk are thus grown barley, oats, wheat, potatoes and even water-melons!"

16: Great Britain Admiralty - - 166 G-3 (no date) 1920 Yakut
116, 231, 243

"Their principal occupations are looking after horses and cattle: the former has been their industry for a very long time, the latter has been more recently adopted. They also hunt and fish, and search for fossil-ivory. Cereals have been introduced into their country and are becoming acclimatized."

53:Tokarev and Gurvich E-4 (no date) 1964
RV2 Yakut RV2

142
243
291
516

Processing grain: 1—removing ears from sheaf with butt of axe; 2—grinding in quern.

22 stage of initial contact between the Russians and Yakuts (17th century) the latter hunted both for meat and fur, but both forms took second place in relation to pastoralism. As time went on, and the fur resources of the region became depleted, the proportion of hunting decreased more and more. By the beginning of the 20th century, squirrel, fox, hare, Siberian ferret, ermine and bear, elk and other animals were hunted in winter for their fur in the central regions of Yakutiya, and there was also hunting of